

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00544 101036Z

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O R 101005Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO ADMIN COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2686

AMEMBASSY MANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJ: NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO) TRAINING EXERCISE
SHAMAL XXIII

REF: (A) ADMIN COMIDEASTFOR 071257Z MAR 75 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 50486

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES USEFULNESS SUBJECT EXERCISE AND BELIEVES IT
COULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL THIS POST WHICH HAS TWO NEWLY
DESIGNATED PLO'S AND IS IN PROCESS DRAFTING E&X PLAN. HOWEVER,
THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS REQUIRING COMMENT AND/OR CLARIFICATION.

2. PRIME CONCERN IS WITH BURDEN THIS EXERCISE WILL PLACE ON EMBASSY
PERSONNEL, PARTICULARLY OUR SINGLE COMMUNICATOR. HE IS ALREADY
OVER-BURDENED WITH NORMAL FLOW OF TRAFFIC AND PUTS IN MORE THAN HIS
SHARE OF OVERTIME. EXERCISE TRAFFIC WILL INEVITABLY ADD TO HIS
LOAD, BUT THIS IS ACCEPTABLE IF TRAFFIC PRECEDENCE IS KEPT DOWN SO AS
TO BE HANDLED DURING DUTY RPT DUTY HOURS. WE APPRECIATE THAT REALISM
WOULD DICTATE NIGHT TRAFFIC AND WE NOTE EXERCISE QUITE LOGICALLY
PROCEEDS THROUGH TWO REGULAR NON-WORKING DAYS (FRIDAYS MARCH 14
AND 21) AS WELL AS ONE ANTICIPATED LOCAL HOLIDAY (MARCH 25 - PROPHET'
S
BIRTHDAY). DESPITE DEMANDS FOR REALISM, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE
HANDLING SUCH TRAFFIC DURING NON-DUTY HOURS WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES
FOR OVERALL EFFICIENCY THIS EMBASSY WHICH NOT WARRANTED FOR THESE
PURPOSES. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT NO RPT NO NIACT IMMEDIATE
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TRAFFIC CONNECTED WITH SHAMAL XXIII BE DIRECTED TO THIS POST.

3. SECOND POINT OF PRIME CONCERN IS THAT EXERCISE NOT STIMULATE LOCAL RUMORS ABOUT SOME IMPENDING U.S. ACTION IN GULF. EMBASSY WILL THEREFORE KEEP EXERCISE PLAY STRICTLY QUOTE WITHIN HOUSE UNQUOTE. WE WILL NOT SEND PLO TO DUBAI AND WE WILL RELY PRIMARILY ON PUBLISHED SOURCES IN REPORTING SHIPS IN PORT (LATTER INFO WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY DIRECT INQUIRIES TO EXTENT THESE CAN BE MADE IN CONTEXT OF NORMAL EMBASSY BUSINESS -- E.G. ADMIN OFFICER'S ROUTINE CONTACTS WITH SHIPS' AGENTS). AGAIN, WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS PROCEDURE WILL REDUCE REALISM OF EXERCISE TO DEGREE, BUT TRUST OUR REASONS WILL BE UNDERSTOOD.

4. FINALLY, AS MINOR POINT, AS NOTED AT TIME PLO'S FOR ABU DHABI AND DUBAI WERE APPOINTED (ABU DHABI 278 AND 297), WE LACK SOME OF BASIC REFERENCE MATERIALS INCLUDING OPLAN 4310. WE MAY, THEREFORE, RUN INTO PROBLEMS IN PROPER PLAY OF EXERCISE.
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